

Poland: The Country, Culture and Prospects



**The Center for Slavic
and East European Studies**

Poland in Europe





Capital: Warsaw (Warszawa)

Language: Polish

Population: 38 million

Area: 312,685 km² (120,727 sq mi)

for size comparison:

New Mexico (315,194 km²) 121,665 sq mi

Larger than Italy, UK

Currency: 1 zloty (PLN)

exchange rate \$1 USD = 3.32 PLN



Poland's largest cities and their populations:

- **Warszawa** **1,702,139**
- **Łódź** **768,755**
- **Kraków** **755,050**
- **Wrocław** **634,893**
- **Poznań** **570,352**
- **Gdańsk** **461,865**

Chicago has as estimated 1 million Poles



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Warszawa – Downtown view and the Vistula River



Łódź – Piotrkowska Street one of the longest commercial thoroughfares in Europe



Kraków – the Old Market (Rynek)



Jagiellonian University – Kraków

founded in 1364
the second oldest university in Central Europe



Gdańsk – Old Town and Port



President



Lech Kaczyński
Law and Justice

Prawo i Sprawiedliwość – PiS; conservative

Prime Minister



Donald Tusk
The Civic Platform

Platforma Obywatelska – PO; center-right



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Constitution



In 1791 the Great Sejm passed *the Constitution of May 3, 1791* –

the world's second modern constitution, which efforts were thwarted with the three partitions of Poland (1772, 1793, and 1795) which ended Poland's being erased from the map of Europe for 123 years and its territories being divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria.

ECONOMY

- **GDP/PPP** (2007 est.): \$620.9 billion; per capita \$16,300
21st Largest economy

Poland has pursued a policy of economic liberalization since 1990 and today stands out as a success story among transition economies. In 2008, GDP grew an estimated 5.3%, based on rising private consumption, a jump in corporate investment, and EU funds inflows. GDP per capita is still much below the EU average, but is similar to that of the three Baltic states. Since 2004, EU membership and access to EU structural funds have provided a major boost to the economy. Unemployment is falling rapidly, though at roughly 9.7% in 2008, it remains above the EU average. In 2008 inflation reached 4.3%, more than the upper limit of the National Bank of Poland's target range, but has been falling due to global economic slowdown. Poland's economic performance could improve further if the country addresses some of the remaining deficiencies in its business environment. An inefficient commercial court system, a rigid labor code, bureaucratic red tape, and persistent low-level

corruption keep the private sector from performing up to its full potential.

Exports: \$137.9 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

- machinery and transport equipment
- intermediate manufactured goods
- miscellaneous manufactured goods
- food and live animals

Imports: \$150.7 billion f.o.b. (2007 est.)

- machinery and transport equipment
- intermediate manufactured goods
- chemicals
- minerals, fuels, lubricants, and related materials

- **Arable land:** 40%.

- **Agriculture:** potatoes, fruits, vegetables, wheat; poultry, eggs, pork, dairy.

- **Labor force:** 17.1 million; agriculture 16.1%, industry 29%, services 54.9% (2007).

- **Industries:** machine building, iron and steel, coal mining, chemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, glass, beverages, textiles.

- **Natural resources:** coal, sulfur, copper, natural gas, silver, lead, salt, amber, arable land.



1999 – Poland Joins NATO



2004 – Poland's Accession to the European Union

*Poland is considered to have one of the healthiest economies of the post-communist countries.

*Since the fall of communism in 1989, Poland has pursued a policy of liberalizing the economy and today stands out as a successful example of the transition from the state-directed economy to primarily privately owned market economy.

*“Shock Therapy”

*Bridge between East and West, economic and political

Accolades

National Geographic (2008) – voted Krakow’s main square the “most beautiful place to see in the world!”

From CNN Public Relations (2009) – “Poland’s influence on the global stage is growing. It is emerging as a driving force in the new Europe in many facets of life, from business to industry, real estate and popular culture.”



American Investment in Poland

The logo for 3M, consisting of the letters "3M" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.The logo for Avon, featuring the word "AVON" in a blue, sans-serif font, with the tagline "the company for women" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font below it.The Chrysler logo, featuring the word "CHRYSLER" in a black, sans-serif font above a stylized winged emblem.The Johnson & Johnson logo, featuring the brand name in a red, cursive script font.The Microsoft logo, featuring the word "Microsoft" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Missile Defense

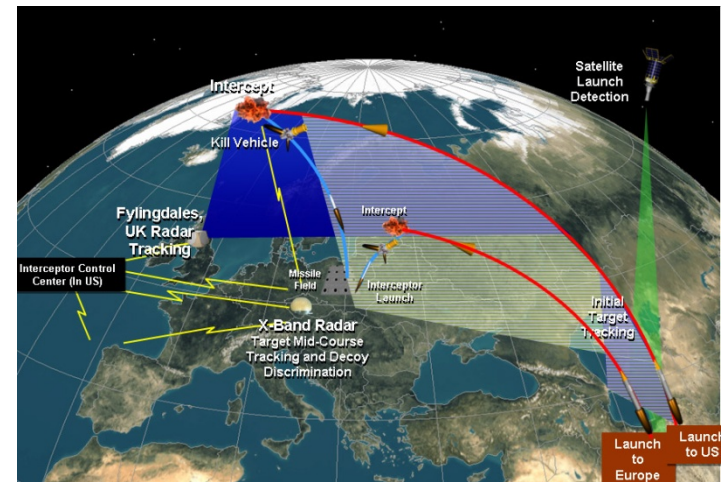
U.S. Missile Defense System based in
Poland and Czech Republic

Signed in 2008

Radar installations in Czech Republic

Interceptor Missiles in Poland*

*would also receive defense measures



UEFA 2012



The host cities:

Warszawa

Poznań

Wrocław

Gdańsk

Chorzów

Kraków

FAMOUS POLES



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Lech Wałęsa

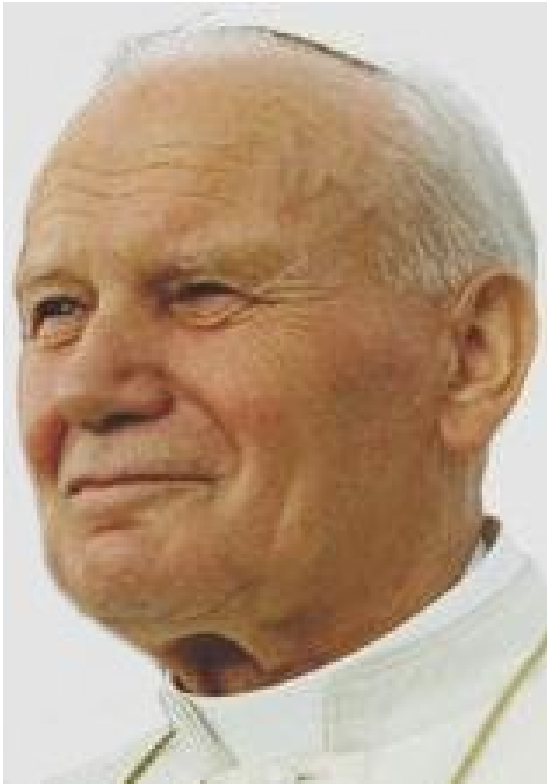
(29 September 1943)



- co-founder of Solidarity
- politician
- former president of Poland

Karol Wojtyła – *Pope John Paul II*

(18 May 1920 – 2 April 2005)

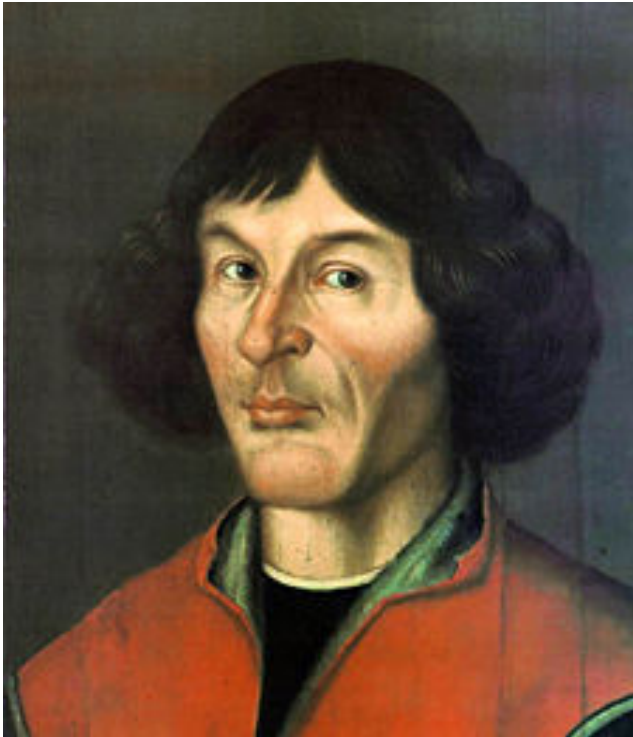


- the only Polish pope
- second longest papacy
(1978 - 2004)
- acclaimed as one of the most influential leaders of the twentieth century

Mikołaj Kopernik

Nicolaus Copernicus Thorunensis

(19 February 1473 – 24 May 1543)



- **the first astronomer** to formulate a comprehensive heliocentric cosmology, which displaced the Earth from the center of the universe

- his epochal book

On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres

is regarded as the starting point of modern astronomy

Kazimierz Pulaski

(4 March 1745 – 11 October 1779)



- **Polish soldier**
- Member of the Polish-Lithuanian nobility and politician who has been called “the father of American cavalry”
- emigrated to America, where he became a general in the Continental Army during *the American Revolutionary War*. He died of wounds suffered in the *Battle of Savannah*

Frédéric Chopin

(1 March 1810 – 17 October 1849)



- **composer and virtuoso pianist**
- of the Romantic period; regarded as the world's greatest composers for piano

Maria Skłodowska – Curie

(7 November 1867 – 4 July 1934)



- **physicist and chemist**
- in 1898 discovered polonium with her husband Pierre Curie
- in 1910 her fundamental treatise on radioactivity was published
- in 1911 she was awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry for the isolation of pure radium.

Andrzej Wajda

(6 March 1926)



- **film director**
- recipient of an honorary Oscar
- the most prominent member of the Polish Film School

Roman Polański

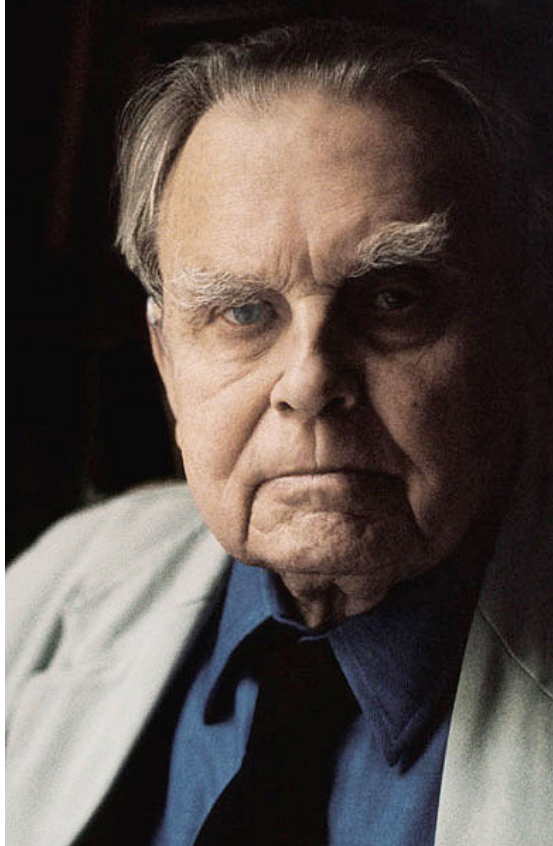
(18 August 1933)



- **director, writer,
producer, actor**
- received 28 Oscar nominations
and 8 Oscars

Czesław Miłosz

(30 June 1911 – 14 August 2004)



- **poet, prose writer, translator**
- From 1961 to 1978 he was a professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of California, Berkeley
- in 1980 awarded Nobel Prize in Literature
- widely considered one of the greatest poets of the 20th century

Famous Americans and their Polish connection



Maksymilian Faktorowicz - Max Factor, Sr.
(1877-1938) – businessman and cosmetician,
founder of *Max Factor Cosmetics Company*



Harry, Albert, Sam, Jack Warner (born
Wanskolaser) – in 1918 the brothers opened
the *Warner Bros. Studio*.

GEOGRAPHY

- *Coastline* - along the northern boarder – Baltic Sea
- *Lakes*– the central northern and northeastern part of Poland - the Pomeranian Lake District, the Greater Polish Lake District, the Kashubian Lake District, the Masurian Lake District
- *Mountains* – along the southern boarder – the Sudetes, Świętokrzyskie Mountains, Carpathian Mountains (the Beskids and the Tatras)
- *Rivers* – Vistula, Oder, Warta, Bug
- *Desert* – Błędów Desert located in the Southern Poland in the Silesian Voivodeship. Total area of 32 sq. km (12 sq m).The only desert in Poland, one of five natural deserts in Europe. The phenomenon of mirages has been known to exist there.

Tradition...



Food...



History and Culture...



Warsawa

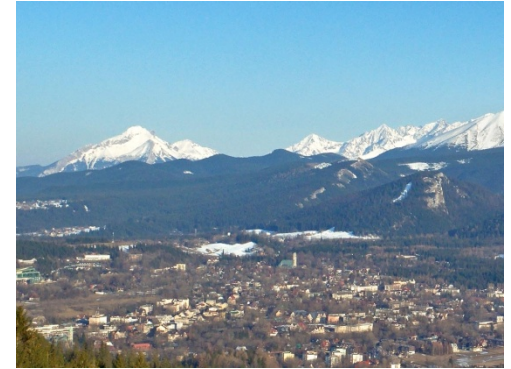




Kołobrzeg



Wieliczka – Salt Mine



Zakopane



Sopot – *Crooked House*



Kaszuby



Desert – Pustynia Błędów

Everything Polish as the OSU

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

- Language classes - POLISH 1101 – 3102
- Polish Literature Classes
- Polish Language Conversation Table

The Center for Slavic and East European Studies

- Polish movie collection
- Lectures

The Polish Club

- Cuisine nights
- Food fests
- Movie nights

OSU in Poland

Fisher College of Business

Sociology

Social Work

Language Study at JU



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- This presentation was developed for the Center for Slavic and East European Studies by Magdalena Gruszczynska